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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

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LATE FOREIGN DEVELOPMENTS . . .

MEXICO

The duty of 5 centavos per kilogram (28 cents per bushel) was removed from corn imports into Mexico, effective February 11, 1944. Bags in which the corn is imported will be dutiable under their separate classification.

ARGENTINA

The condition of the corn crop is favorable in most sections. Trade forecasts of the probable production range from around 350 to 510 million bushels, though the latter figure is considered too high, on the planted area of 11,292,000 acres reported.

INDIA

Rainfall continued inadequate in some important wheat areas, according to reports.

EGYPT

A bill passed by the Egyptian Senate and Chamber of Deputies continues cotton-planting restrictions in effect since the beginning of 1942. The resulting deficit of cottonseed oil for home use will be supplied by imports of 100,000 tons of cottonseed from the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, and it is expected that additional quantities will be supplied by the British Government from other sources.

NEW ZEALAND

The Minister of Supply announced recently that plans for rationing meat in New Zealand were well advanced but that the details could not be given out as yet. The normal consumption of beef, mutton and lamb, and pork in New Zealand is estimated at 252 pounds per capita annually, the highest in the world. In speaking of the contemplated rationing restrictions, the Prime Minister stressed the advisability of following Australia's lead in order that increased supplies might be sent to Great Britain and to the fighting forces. Should the Government adopt the ration introduced in Australia the normal consumption of these meats would be approximately halved, it was stated.

DENMARK

An agreement covering trade between Denmark and Finland for the first 6 months of 1944 was signed in Helsinki on February 17. The agreement provides for an exchange of commodities in that period amounting in value to a total of approximately 360 million Finnish Marks ($7,300,000). Denmark will send butter, sugar, pork, cheese. milk, conserves, apple pulp, blood albumen, dyestuffs, and machinery. Finland in turn will send mostly timber, plywood, cellulose, cardboard, and paper.

GRAIN AND GRAIN PRODUCTS . . .

Gordon P. Boals, in charge

CUBA REPORTS INCREASED CORN CROP

The 1943 corn crop in Cuba was officially placed at around 9.4 million bushels, compared with an average production of about 5.7 million bushels. Trade sources place the crop at a lower level than the official estimate, probably around 7 million bushels, or about 16 percent above normal. The acreage is also said to be considered overestimated at the current figure of 490,430 acres. Unofficial sources estimate the area at nearer 400,000 acres, compared with the average of 360,000 acres.

Corn is one of Cuba's most important crops, surpassed in importance only by sugar, and the acreage about the same as that planted in bananas. Most of the crop is ground and utilized for human consumption in the form of corn meal, corn ranking with wheat as a staple food in Cuba. Relatively low prices on livestock products discourage any extensive use as feed. The corn produced is of the yellow flint type and is grown during all seasons of the year. The main crop, however, representing about 75 percent of the total, is produced during the summer rainy season. Plantings of the main crop are made from April to June and the harvest extends from August to October, after which it must be dried, shelled, bagged, and fumigated before being available for export.

Corn is grown in most parts of the country, with the largest cultivation in the easternmost Province of Oriente, in which the fine harbor of Santiago de Cuba is located. About 44 percent of the total production was grown in that Province in 1943. The second area of importance was Las Villas near the central part of the island, with an outturn of about 24 percent of the country's crop last year. The 1943 distribution by Provinces was officially reported as follows:

	Acres	*Bushels*
Pinar del Rio	35,914	686,553
Habana	46,360	886,250
Matanzas	25,833	493,839
Las Villas	118,620	2,267,607
Camaguey	47,023	898,929
Oriente	216,680	4,142,143
Total	490,430	9,375,321

Increased production of food crops was stressed as a means of diversifying Cuban agriculture, in connection with the negotiations for the purchase of the sugar crop during the fall of 1942. In order to stimulate production and to provide a surplus in the Caribbean area for shipment to deficit areas, the United States Government offered to purchase all surplus corn from Cuba. A detailed contract was entered into in July 1943 and a price of $2.20 per 100 pounds was agreed upon.

Reports indicate that about a third of the total Cuban crop in 1943 was grown on sugar-central land. The high proportion raised on the sugar centrals in 1943 was attributed to the guaranteed minimum price. A result of this increase was a higher yield per acre, due to improved production methods possible on these well-equipped holdings.

Corn yields are low in Cuba, usually averaging only 15 to 17 bushels per acre. These yields, though very low compared with the average for the United States, compare favorably with yields in southern parts of the United States as well as in other areas with warm climates. Based on official estimates, the 1943 yields average 19.1 bushels per acre. Private estimates place the yield below the official figure, though still above average.

In Cuba's tropical climate corn is subject to insect damage if kept for more than a few weeks. It must, therefore, be fumigated before being stored and, if kept for any period of time, must be refumigated periodically. Some difficulty was encountered in locating adequate fumigation facilities to protect stores of corn waiting for shipment under the Government's purchase program.

Though small quantities of corn appear in Cuba's foreign trade, production since 1930 has closely approximated consumption, with exports exceeding imports since 1936, except in 1942 when a severe drought reduced production. The largest exports were reported in 1939, when about 648,000 bushels or 10 percent of the crop was exported to Puerto Rico and Venezuela. These two countries took the bulk of Cuba's exports during the period 1930-1942, Puerto Rico's share amounting to 68 percent during that time.

Exports during the first 9 months of 1943, excluding those by the Commodity Credit Corporation, are estimated at only about 57,000 bushels. Corn actually shipped from Cuba by the Commodity Credit Corporation from August 30 to December 17 was placed at 132,000 bushels. The bulk of that grain went to Mexico. In addition, 28,000 bushels were reported as purchased and awaiting shipment in Mexico. Transportation difficulties and slow deliveries from producing areas caused some delays in the export program, as the grain was not always in position for loading when ships were available. Later, arrangement was made to send all grain to Habana for shipment. Though Habana is not in the chief corn area, most exports were made from that port in 1943.

There is usually a considerable spread between prices received by farmers and the price in Habana later in the year. Pre-war prices to producers varied from $0.60 to $1.30 per hundred pounds in the Province of Oriente. Prices in Habana later in the year varied from $1.50 to $3.50 with an average probably around $2.40. That price includes cost of bags, drying, fumigation, transportation, storage, and handler's profits. From January to August 1, 1943, shelled corn purchased by dealers in Habana was about $3.75, but the price dropped to $2.40 - $2.75 after the new crop came on the market. The United States contract price of $2.20 per 100 pounds, bagged, at producer's railroad station is equivalent to between $1.50 and $1.70 to the producer at the farm (excluding bags) and $2.60 - $2.80 in warehouse or shipside in Habana.

With the program for diversification of agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation's guaranty of the purchase of all surplus corn extended to July 1, 1945, exports may be on a larger scale than in recent years. The price of $2.20 per 100 pounds, shelled basis, at the producer's nearest railroad station, is considerably higher than pre-war prices for corn and might be expected to stimulate production further. Better returns for some alternate crops, however, may prevent any further significant increase in corn production. A shortage of motor fuel might also, to some degree, discourage expansion.

BALKAN STATES EXTEND RICE AREAS

Governmental encouragement during recent years has effected a substantial increase in the area devoted to rice production in Southeastern Europe, according to unofficial foreign sources. Interest in the cultivation of rice, after wartime conditions prevented its importation, stimulated experimental plantings in many parts of the Balkans and substantial areas adaptable for its growth were revealed.

As in most parts of the world where rice is grown, two kinds of rice can be cultivated in Southeastern Europe, which are the dry-land type, nourished only by rainfall, and the more productive irrigated rice prevalent in all rice-growing areas of the world. The latter can be grown extensively in certain parts of the Balkans, notably in the Wallachia district, a wide area of southern Rumania, and the Theiss and Tisza River areas in northeast Hungary.

Although production in the past few years has increased remarkably in the Balkans, rice as a crop is still relatively unimportant in that region compared with production in other countries. Bulgaria is the principal producer. That country harvested 1,470,000 bushels in 1941 compared with an annual average of 1,040,000 bushels during the 5-year period, 1935-1939. A 5-year agricultural plan is said to include provisions for an extensive increase in rice acreage that can be alternated with cotton and tobacco.

In Rumania, recent experiences with rice culture proved so successful that the Government provided instruction, inaugurated credits, established model farms, and built canals and dams to facilitate increased production. It is expected that 25,000 acres soon will be producing rice in the Walachia District of that country. On the basis of previous yield such an area would produce a crop of over a million bushels.

ECUADORAN RICE EXPORTS INCREASED

Ecuadoran rice exports during 1943 exceeded 105,000,000 pounds, an all-time record, according to official statistics from Guayaquil. Cuba took the largest part of the total exports, but Peru was also an important market. About 100 million pounds have been released for shipment to foreign countries since May 1943, when rice exports were prohibited except under Government permit. Indications are that further shipments of last year's carry-over may be authorized, since current stocks are larger than normal. Rice now is the principal agricultural crop in Ecuador, as new areas have been developed since the war curtailed Latin American imports from the Far East.

ECUADOR: Rice production, exports, and apparent domestic utilization, average 1936-1940, annual 1941-1943

YEAR	PRODUCTION		EXPORTS	DOMESTIC UTILIZATION
	ROUGH	MILLED		
	1,000 bushels	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
Average: 1936-1940	3,621	100,580	25,680	74,900
Annual: 1941	4,491	124,756	46,627	78,129
1942	5,697	158,258	85,205	73,053
1943 a/	7,300	203,000	105,700	b/ 97,300

Compiled from official sources. a/ Preliminary. b/ Includes large carry-over.

VEGETABLE OILS AND OILSEEDS

Fred J. Rossiter, in charge

ARGENTINA ANTICIPATES RECORD SUNFLOWER-SEED PRODUCTION

Argentine sunflower acreage expansion is one of the outstanding events in oilseed history during the past 10 years, showing even a larger percentage increase than that of soybeans in the United States. The area sown for harvest in 1935 was 207,000 acres compared with 3,306,000 acres for the current harvest. Acreage increased annually until 1943, when there was a 10-percent reduction due to the large carry-over from the year before. Unfortunately, however, drought so severely damaged the crop that the yield was much below average. While the first official estimate of 1944 production will not be released until April, present indications are that it may exceed 2 billion pounds.

Producers were urged to increase their acreage, and as an inducement, the Government guaranteed them a price of 13.00 pesos per 100 kilograms ($1.76 per 100 pounds) if it should become necessary for the Grain Board to purchase the crop. Since there is a strong demand for sunflower-seed oil in both domestic and foreign markets, prospects are so favorable that this action is not likely to occur.

Sunflower-seed crushings in recent years have about equaled production, although some seed was exported to other South American countries. Exports of both seed and oil have been prohibited since May 1943, except under special permit. The prohibition will undoubtedly be lifted when the new crop is harvested.

ARGENTINA: Area, production, crushings, and exports of sunflower seed, 1934-35 to 1943-44

YEAR	AREA SOWN	PRODUCTION	SEED CRUSHED a/	NET OIL PRODUCED a/	EXPORTS a/ SEED	EXPORTS a/ OIL
	Acres	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*	*1,000 pounds*
1934-35	206,786	136,284	101,511	21,906	10,352	-
1935-36	306,231	162,095	161,464	35,414	3,192	-
1936-37	510,909	228,046	252,706	58,801	57	-
1937-38	787,873	531,320	495,993	117,454	6,145	-
1938-39	823,518	595,242	532,152	128,845	34,162	-
1939-40	1,249,338	b/ 826,725	665,990	162,245	52,191	26,254
1940-41	1,418,678	b/ 1,091,277	885,605	222,647	38,663	b/ 130,926
1941-42	1,853,250	b/ 1,477,082	1,461,108	385,521	b/ 77,072	d/ 59,725
1942-43	1,665,454	b/ 743,616	c/	c/	d/ 24,317	-
1943-44	3,306,198	-	-	-	-	-

Compiled from official sources.

a/ Calendar year in which crop was harvested.

b/ Revised.

c/ Not available.

d/ January-October only.

COTTONSEED PRODUCTION IN BRAZIL OFFSETS REDUCTION IN OTHER MAJOR OILSEEDS

The unusually good condition of Southern Brazil's 1943-44 cotton crop, harvesting of which begins in March, and reported increases in acreage ranging from 10 to 50 percent in various sections, indicate that cottonseed production in that part of Brazil this year may be considerably higher than last year's crop of 830,000 short tons. Should this prove to be the case, it would tend to offset to a large extent the anticipated reduction in the production of most other major oilseed crops. For Northern Brazil an official estimate indicates cottonseed production in 1943-44 at about 225,000 tons compared with 170,000 tons in 1942-43.

The 1944 export surplus of Brazilian cottonseed oil is expected to equal the record total of 40,000 tons exported in 1941. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 10, 1944.) This favorable outlook is somewhat tempered, however, by reports of transportation difficulties due to a severe shortage of gasoline for trucks, shortage of fertilizers, recent appearance of insect pests, and the fact that losses often result from heavy rainfall during the harvest period.

The 1943-44 peanut acreage in the States of São Paulo and northern Paraná was increased by as much as 50 percent in some sections, but production is expected to decline by 20 to 30 percent because of drought at planting time, heavy rains during the harvest period, and a considerable amount of disease and insect damage. The 1942-43 crop in Sao Paulo, the only surplus-producing State in Brazil, was estimated at 25,000 short tons of peanuts in the shell.

Castor-bean production is expected to equal the 1943 record crop of 275,000 short tons. The yield from cultivated plants (in Sao Paulo), however, may be slightly smaller than last year because many of this year's plants grow from seeds that accidentally fell to the ground during the last harvest or sprung from the root systems of last year's plants. Harvesting begins in February.

Most of the flowers and buds of tung trees in southern Brazil were killed by frost last September. As a result, production of tung oil in 1944 will be much lower than in 1943. Producing trees averaged about 22 pounds of nuts per tree in 1943. Growers in northern Paraná are reported to have planted at least 1 million new tung trees last spring. The trees normally start producing at the age of 5 or 6 years.

The commercial production of babassu kernels in 1944 is expected to equal last year's harvest of around 60,000 short tons. The actual harvest in 1944 may be smaller, because the trees are scattered throughout tropical jungle areas, and the gathering and preparation of the kernels for market are handicapped by labor shortage and transportation difficulties.

The outlook for production of oiticica kernels is considered favorable this year. About 11,000 short tons of oil are expected to be available for export, compared with only a few hundred tons during 1942 and 1943. Export of oiticica kernels is prohibited, and oil exports are roughly equivalent to production, since very little of it is consumed locally.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

A. W. Palmer, in charge

LOWER WORLD COTTON CROP INDICATED FOR 1943-44

Indications are that the 1943-44 world cotton crop will be somewhat below the 27,475,000 bales produced in 1942-43. This estimate is based on figures available for certain countries, which in the aggregate accounted for 63 percent of the world crop last year, and 38 percent of the foreign crop. In the countries for which figures are available, the production in 1943-44 will total 17,253,000 bales, compared with their production of 18,854,000 bales in 1942-43. Larger crops were reported for India, Mexico, Venezuela, Spain, and Ecuador, but decreases elsewhere offset this increase, and tipped the total downward by over a million bales. Decreases were noted in the United States, Egypt, Peru, Iran, Syria and Lebanon, Nicaragua, Iraq, Turkey, El Salvador, and Puerto Rico. There are indications of increased production in Brazil and Soviet Union, but prospects are not favorable for increases in other areas.

WORLD COTTON PRODUCTION DECREASED IN 1942-43*

Estimates received from countries that accounted for about 80 percent of the estimated world cotton production in the year beginning August 1, 1942, and incomplete data from countries that accounted for an additional 5 percent, indicate that the world crop that year was probably about 27,475,000 bales (of 478 pounds). This is a slight reduction (of 100,000 bales or 0.3 percent) from the estimated world total production of 27,580,000 bales in 1941 and a decided drop from the 1940 figure of 30,560,000 bales. The decrease is attributed almost entirely to reductions in India, Egypt, and British East Africa (Kenya, Tanganyika, and Uganda). The United States crop showed an increase of nearly 2.1 million bales, and somewhat larger crops were reported in most of the minor producing countries. Decreases of about 1.3 million bales in India and 900,000 bales in Egypt offset the increase in the United States, and the net decline in other countries amounted to an estimated 100,000 bales.

The decrease in India and Egypt was due almost entirely to governmental measures under which a large part of the land area usually given to cotton was diverted to the production of essential food crops. Sections of British East Africa, particularly Uganda, experienced heavy damage from insects and a drought. Record-breaking crops were produced in Mexico, Argentina, and Paraguay, although adverse weather conditions prevailed in the early stages of the growing season. Similarly, favorable weather conditions in the later months of the season turned the production figure for Brazil slightly upward from that of the preceding year, but total production was still below the large crop of 1940.

The estimated world production of 27,475,000 bales for 1942 is supported by official data for the major producing countries, accounting for 80 percent of the estimated total production. In some minor producing countries where official production estimates are not yet available, as in Turkey, Belgian Congo, and British West Africa, tentative approximations have been made by this Office based on the year's planted acreage, reported growing conditions, and normal yield. The countries falling in these two categories normally account for about 85 percent of the world production of cotton. In the case of countries (in most instances minor producing areas) for which no information on the 1942 crop is available, a figure based on the preceding year's crop or on average production in recent years has been assumed.

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*Prepared by Robert E. Bowlus.

COTTON: Estimated total world production, 1930-31 to 1942-43
(In bales of 478 pounds net)

YEAR BEGINNING AUGUST 1	UNITED STATES	FOREIGN	TOTAL WORLD
	1,000 bales	*1,000 bales*	*1,000 bales*
1930	13,932	12,268	26,200
1931	17,097	10,753	27,850
1932	13,003	11,447	24,450
1933	13,047	13,873	26,920
1934	9,636	14,174	23,810
1935	10,638	16,192	26,830
1936	12,399	19,101	31,500
1937	18,946	19,684	38,630
1938	11,943	17,147	29,090
1939	11,817	17,163	28,980
1940 a/	12,566	17,994	30,560
1941 a/	10,744	16,836	27,580
1942 a/	12,817	14,658	27,475

Official sources, reports of International Institute of Agriculture, reliable trade sources, or estimates of Bureau of Agricultural Economics and Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. a/ Preliminary.

Both the availability and reliability of statistics on cotton production are affected by conditions that have arisen from the war. Reports are not issued as promptly as before, and many sources of information formerly supplying figures on cotton production are no longer available. Due to these contributing factors, the presentation of data regarding annual production by countries is made quite difficult, and possibly somewhat less accurate than would otherwise be the case. The table on page 206 presents, however, information which is believed to be the best available at this time.

INDIA The reduction of the crop in India from 5,127,000 bales to 3,811,000 bales was due principally to a 19-percent reduction in acreage. Moreover, the reported yield was down somewhat, due to damage by pests, and to a reported lack of moisture in the Deccan, where it is almost impossible to irrigate. In some sections, where Oomrah and Broach cottons are grown, the heavy monsoon rains caused a great deal of damage by flooding the young plants, and where the cotton was flooded out, the land was planted to corn and other late crops. With the entry of Japan into the war the preceding year, the principal market for much of India's short-staple cotton was cut off, and in order to prevent a still greater accumulation of short-staple cotton stocks in the country, the Indian Government instituted a "Grow More Food Crops" campaign. A subsidy of about 5 million rupees, or approximately $1,500,000 was provided to assist the natives in the transition from cotton and jute to the principal food crops. At the same time, efforts were made to urge growers to produce the cottons of the better staple varieties that could be utilized in Indian mills.

EGYPT The third and final estimate of the Egyptian cotton crop for 1942-43 showed a crop of 861,000 bales, of which 440,800 bales were of the longer-staple varieties. A Government reduction plan caused that year's planted area to be reduced to 729,300 acres, or less than 43 percent of the acreage on which the preceding year's crop of 1,735,200 bales was produced. The decrease in the crop is believed to have been due to several factors, the most prominent being a major wartime readjustment of Egyptian agriculture to meet the need for food crops and to avoid a further accumulation of surplus cotton. The Egyptian Government, through its seed-control operations, has been requiring producers to plant varieties that yield a longer-staple fiber, although these varieties do not yield per acre as much actual fiber, by weight, as do the shorter-staple types of cotton.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA Cotton production in British East Africa suffered almost a 60-percent drop, when the 1942-43 crop turned out only 158,000 bales, as compared with the 1941-42 crop, which amounted to about 387,000 bales. Weather conditions were the chief cause of the decline, especially in Uganda, where the crop was estimated at about 95,000 bales compared with 323,000 in the past year. Kenya's crop was reduced in about the same proportions, when production amounted to only about 5,000 bales, following a crop of about 15,000 the preceding year. Tanganyika's crop showed a slight increase, from 43,000 to 48,000 bales, as did the crop in Nyasaland, which increased from 6,000 to 10,000 bales.

BRAZIL The total Brazilian crop showed a slight increase over that of the year previous, 2,089,000 bales being produced in 1942, and 1,844,000 in 1941, but in neither year did the crop reach the proportions of the 2,507,000 bales produced in 1940. Production in Northern Brazil dropped precipitously, from 649,900 bales in 1940, to 362,881 in 1942, due mainly to adverse weather conditions, lack of labor, and unsatisfactory prices prevailing at time of planting for the more recent crops. Production in Southern Brazil regained some of the ground lost in 1941, when the crop dropped to 1,375,700 bales compared with 1,856,700 bales in 1940. The 1942 crop amounted to about 1,726,100 bales. Favorable weather that prevailed after the planting season helped to mature a largercrop than earlier conditions had indicated.

PERU As a result of governmental efforts to control production, the Peruvian crop was somewhat smaller in 1942 than in previous years, amounting to 322,000 bales compared with 329,000 bales in 1941 and 383,000 bales in 1940. Lack of water for irrigation early in the season retarded the crop to some degree, but restriction of acreage under the Government's agreement with the United States accounted for the major portion of the reduced production. According to preliminary estimates, the 1943 crop will amount to only about 233,000 bales. The decrease is due almost entirely to governmental restriction, and efforts to increase production of food crops.

ARGENTINA AND PARAGUAY Following a severe drought that prevailed in the cotton producing regions of Argentina and Paraguay during the planting and early growing season, rains of almost torrential quantities fell, giving the crop new life. Early season forecasts were quite pessimistic, but, as the crop advanced the tenor of reports was completely changed. The crop in the two countries exceeded all expectations, and attained a record-breaking total. Argentina's crop of 498,000 bales was more than double that of 1940, which was about 232,000 bales. Paraguay's crop was only about 5 percent larger than that of 1941-42, but even so, it was larger than any other since 1937-38.

MEXICO AND OTHER LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES In Mexico the trend of cotton production has been steadily upward, and early estimates indicate that there will be a sizeable increase in production for the 1943 crop. The 1942 crop showed an increase of about 107,000 bales, or 28 percent over the 1941 crop of 375,000 bales. Preliminary reports indicate that the 1943 crop will be about 44,000 bales larger than the 1942 crop of 482,000 bales.

Venezuela, with a policy of increasing production to meet the requirements of its own industry, has increased production steadily from 13,000 bales in 1940 to 16,000 bales in 1942. Preliminary figures indicate that the crop will total about 20,000 bales in 1943. While Ecuador suffered a slight set-back in 1942, early reports show that the 1943 crop will approximate 13,000 bales, almost double the crop of 1940. On the other hand, production in Nicaragua has decreased each year since 1941, due mainly to greater alternative opportunities in other crops, loss of the export market, and low prices on a slow-moving crop. Haiti's production has remained rather constant, since there is little change in acreage from year to year (Haitian cotton is of the perennial or tree type), and because cotton is grown merely as a supplementary crop.

EUROPEAN COUNTRIES Due to the dearth of information from the Continent of Europe separate estimates have not been made for the individual cotton producing areas other than Spain. However, reports coming from occupied nations indicate that although cotton is a high-priority crop in the plans of the German occupation forces, both for the fiber and oil-bearing qualities of the plant, cultivation in the past two years has not progressed favorably. The Soviet Union, the largest producing country in Europe, experienced a decline in production, both in the occupied (the newer producing areas) and in the older cotton-producing areas, although optimistic reports have been issued from time to time concerning production in certain areas. Poor weather conditions and lack of suitable labor have contributed to reduce crops in other portions of the European area.

OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES Estimated production in various African areas not listed - French West Africa, French North Africa, and certain other areas - has increased considerably under the wartime demand for fiber crops, according to all available reports. Weather conditions which retarded the crops in East Africa did not affect the crops in these areas. Production has approximately trebled in the past 3 years.

OTHER ASIATIC AREAS According to the most reliable information, production of cotton in Free China has decreased, while production in Occupied China has held its own, and possibly increased, under favorable trading terms granted by the Japanese forces. The Japanese have sponsored planting of cotton to a greater extent in the Dutch East Indies, the Philippine Islands, and in the Malay Peninsula. At the same time, they have offered bounties for increased crops in Burma, French Indochina, Chosen, and Manchuria. In this way, they are attempting to make up for the loss in cotton formerly secured from India and countries of the Western Hemisphere. Few reliable reports are available concerning production of cotton in these areas.

COTTON: Estimated world production, 1942-43, with comparisons
(In bales of 478 pounds net)

COUNTRY	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43 (Preliminary)	1943-44 (Preliminary)
	1,000 bales	*1,000 bales*	*1,000 bales*	*1,000 bales*
Officially estimated a/				
United States	12,566	10,744	12,817	11,478
India b/	5,090	5,127	3,811	3,918
Brazil	2,507	1,844	2,089	–
Egypt	1,900	1,735	861	686
Peru	383	329	322	233
British East Africa	350	387	158	–
Mexico	302	375	482	526
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan	247	247	233	–
Argentina	232	373	498	–
Iran	208	184	120	92
Syria and Lebanon	30	23	24	12
Paraguay	26	31	31	–
Iraq	22	17	7	6
Venezuela	13	14	16	20
Haiti	12	11	13	–
Spain	7	12	20	25
Ecuador	7	10	8	13
Nicaragua	5	8	4	2
Guatemala	3	2	4	–
Estimates based on available information c/				
Turkey	218	268	346	231
Belgian Congo	205	208	235	–
French Equatorial Africa	83	85	85	–
British West Africa	61	43	54	–
Afghanistan	50	60	60	–
Colombia	18	19	23	–
El Salvador	12	4	14	10
Australia	11	13	8	–
British West Indies	8	6	6	–
Puerto Rico	1	2	2	1
Other areas d/				
European	3,216	2,529	2,198	–
African	62	109	198	–
Asiatic	2,673	2,727	2,824	–
Total foreign e/	17,994	16,836	14,658	–
Total domestic	12,566	10,744	12,817	–
Total world production	30,560	27,580	27,475	–

a/ Countries from which 1942 estimates have been received. b/ Excludes Burma. c/ Estimates based on this year's planted acreage, reported growing conditions, or other partial information. d/ Includes estimates and assumed figures. e/ Includes several minor countries, mostly in the Western Hemisphere, that produce a total of less than 15,000 bales annually.